



Killer Heat

Brenda Chapman

Reading Level: Grade 3

Interest Level: Adult

Book Summary

Ottawa is in the middle of a summer heat wave—and PI Anna Sweet takes on her hottest case yet. Brent Rose secretly dated three women at the same time. One of them wants to make him pay for his cheating ways. Will Anna stop Brent's tormenter in time? Or will he meet his end in the killer heat?

Chapter One

1. How is the summer heat affecting people?
2. Which do you like better: summer heat or winter cold?
3. What problem is making Jada even grumpier?
4. What fib does Anna tell Nick? Why?
5. Fibs are sometimes called 'little white lies.' Do you believe it is ever a good idea to fib?
6. Describe Brent Rose. What do you think of him after this first meeting?

7. Do you have any sympathy for his problem?

Chapter Two

1. Describe the three ex-girlfriends.
2. Based on this information, which one would you pick to be threatening Brent?
3. What more do we learn about Brent Rose and his family?
4. Why are Anna and her father worried about Evan?

Chapter Three

1. What is Brent's living arrangement?
2. Describe Wayne Thorne.
3. What do we learn about Wayne's relationship with Brent?
4. What is a 'serial dater' and why does Brent not like being called one?
5. Do you think the missing key could be a problem?

Chapter Four

1. How did the three girlfriends find out about each other?
2. Do you believe that Priya Patel is over Brent? Why or why not?
3. Why does Jada believe Anna should visit Nick in New York?
4. Do you believe Anna is wise to stay clear of Nick's movie world?
5. Would you go to New York if you were Anna? Why or why not?

Chapter Five

1. Does Cassy Winters seem angry?
2. Why does Anna pick Mandy Ling as the most likely suspect? Do you agree?

3. What does Anna hope her visits will accomplish?
4. Has your opinion of Brent changed?
5. Do you think that Brent deserves to be punished for his behaviour?

Chapter Six

1. Why is Jimmy back in town?
2. Discuss Anna's relationship with Jimmy.
3. What does Jimmy plan to do to mend his relationship with Evan?
4. Are you surprised by what Detective Johnny tells Anna in his phone call?

Chapter Seven

1. Why does Detective Shaw believe that the killer 'had a hate on' for Brent?
2. What did Wayne Thorne say that he did when he found the body?
3. Explain how Anna comes up with the timing of the murder.
4. How would you describe the relationship between Anna and Detective Shaw?
5. Why does Anna decide to keep working on the case?

Chapter Eight

1. What does station manager Bev Timmins reveal about Brent?
2. After speaking with Ron Clayton, Anna says that her 'sixth sense is tingling.' What is the sixth sense?
3. Have you ever sensed something that later turned out to be true?
4. Ron Clayton won't look Anna or Jimmy in the eyes. What could this mean?
5. What final piece of information does Ron tell Anna before he leaves?

Chapter Nine

1. Outline the evidence given by each of the three ex-girlfriends
2. Why do Jada and Jimmy settle on one suspect for Brent's murder?
3. Why is Anna not as certain? What do you think?
4. Why does Jada think that Anna could be getting into trouble with Jimmy? Do you agree?

Chapter Ten

1. What does Ron Clayton's confession do to the case against Mandy Ling?
2. Who do you believe was more at fault in the scheme, Brent or Ron? Or do you think they are equally to blame?
3. If you were the station manager, would you fire Ron after he confesses?
4. How is Anna feeling about the case?

Chapter Eleven

1. Detective Shaw reveals how he feels without saying a word. How does he do this?
2. Body language also can let you know how somebody is feeling. Give examples.
3. What piece of information does Anna remember?
4. What does Anna hope to find out when she visits Brent's mother?

Chapter Twelve

1. What does Carol Rose share about her family?
2. Does this information make you feel more sympathetic toward Brent? Why or why not?
3. Why does Anna now consider Liam a suspect?
4. How is Meghan Susan Page connected to Brent?
5. Anna adds Steve Eisen to the list of suspects. Who is he and why does Anna suspect him?
6. Who does Anna ask her dad to track down next?
7. With the additional information, who do you believe killed Brent?

Chapter Thirteen

1. What new information does Jada share from the forensic report?
2. Anna speaks with Wayne about where Brent might have drunk beer before he died. What does she conclude?
3. Who does Wayne believe killed Brent? Do you agree?

Chapter Fourteen

1. What information leads Anna to figure out who killed Brent?
2. What did Brent do that led to his death?
3. Anna says that the killer isn't evil. Do you agree? Why or why not?
4. Does your opinion of the killer change after what he does to Anna before leaving?

Chapter Fifteen

1. How does Anna's dad show his love for his family?
2. How does Anna's scare with the killer change her?
3. Has fear ever held you back from something that you later regretted not doing?
4. Think of a time when you overcame nerves or fear to try something outside your comfort zone. How did you feel afterward?